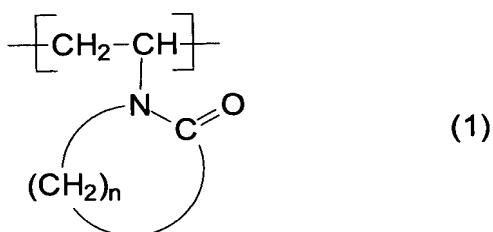


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A water-soluble or water-swellaable crosslinked copolymer consisting essentially of

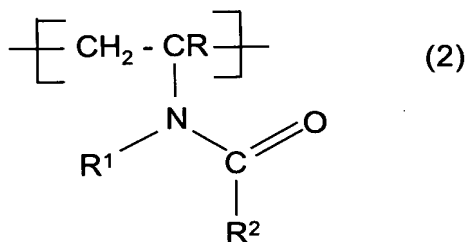
a1) 1 to 50% by weight of ~~the~~ a repeating structural unit of ~~the~~ formula (1)



where n is an integer from 2 to 9,

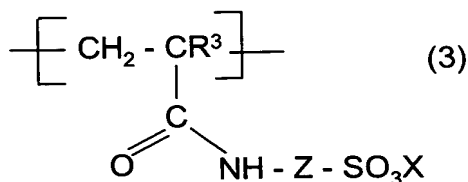
or

a2) 1 to 50% by weight of a mixture of the repeating structural unit of the formula (1) and ~~of the~~ a repeating structural unit of ~~the~~ formula (2)



where R, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> may be identical or different and are hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group having in each case 1 to 30, ~~preferably 1 to 20, in particular 1 to 12,~~ carbon atoms and

b) 49.99 to 98.99% by weight of ~~the~~ a repeating structural unit of ~~the~~ formula (3)



in which R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, Z is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylene, n is an integer from 2 to 9, and X is an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal ammonium ion, and

- c) 0.01 to 8% by weight of crosslinking structures resulting from a monomer ~~monomers~~ having at least two olefinic double bonds.

2.(Currently Amended) The copolymer as claimed in claim 1, consisting essentially of 2 to 30% by weight of ~~the repeating structural unit of the formula 1 or a mixture of the repeating structural units of the formulae 1 and 2~~ component a1) or mixture a2), 69.5 to 97.5% by weight of ~~the repeating structural unit of the formula 3~~ component b) and 0.2 to 3% by weight of component c) ~~crosslinking structures resulting from monomers having at least two olefinic double bonds.~~

3.(Currently Amended) The copolymer as claimed in claim 1, consisting essentially of 3 to 15% by weight of ~~the repeating structural unit of the formula 1 or a mixture of the repeating structural units of the formulae 1 and 2~~ component a1) or mixture a2), 84.5 to 96.5% by weight of ~~the repeating structural unit of the formula 3~~ component b) and 0.5 to 2% by weight of component c) ~~crosslinking structures resulting from monomers having at least two olefinic double bonds.~~

4.(Currently Amended) The copolymer as claimed in claim 1, ~~comprising crosslinking structures resulting from~~ wherein the monomer of component c) is allyl (meth)acrylate.

5.(Delete)

6.(Delete)

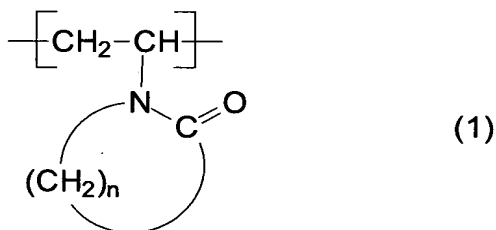
7.(Previously Presented) A cosmetic preparation or a pharmaceutical preparation comprising the water-soluble or water-swellaable crosslinked copolymer of claim 1.

8.(New) The water-soluble or water-swellaable crosslinked copolymer of claim 1 wherein R, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group having in each case 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

9.(New) The water-soluble or water-swellaable crosslinked copolymer of claim 1 wherein R, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group having in each case 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

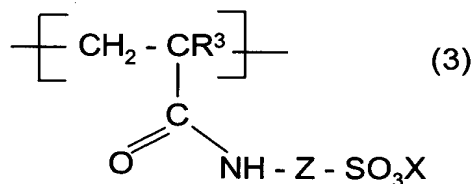
10.(New) A water-soluble or water-swellaable crosslinked copolymer consisting essentially of

a) 1 to 50% by weight of a repeating structural unit of the formula (1)



where n is an integer from 2 to 9,

b) 49.99 to 98.99% by weight of a repeating structural unit of the formula (3)



in which R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, Z is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>-alkylene, and X is an ammonium ion, and

c) 0.01 to 8% by weight of crosslinking structures resulting from monomers having at least two olefinic double bonds.

11.(New)                    The water-soluble or water-swellaable crosslinked copolymer of claim 1, wherein in component c) the monomer is selected from the group consisting of allyl acrylate, allyl methacrylate, allyl ethyl methacrylate, trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate, trimethylolpropane triacrylate, dipropylene glycol diallyl ether, polyglycol diallyl ether, triethylene glycol divinyl ether, hydroquinone diallyl ether, tetraallyloxyethane, tetraethylene glycol diacrylate, triallylamine, trimethylolpropane diallyl ether, methylene bisacrylamide, divinylbenzene, and mixtures thereof.

12.(New)                    The water-soluble or water-swellaable crosslinked copolymer of claim 10, wherein in component c) the monomers are selected from the group consisting of allyl acrylate, allyl methacrylate, allyl ethyl methacrylate, trimethylolpropane trimethacrylate, trimethylolpropane triacrylate, dipropylene glycol diallyl ether, polyglycol diallyl ether, triethylene glycol divinyl ether, hydroquinone diallyl ether, tetraallyloxyethane, tetraethylene glycol diacrylate, triallylamine, trimethylolpropane diallyl ether, methylene bisacrylamide, divinylbenzene, and mixtures thereof.